



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Office of Public Affairs

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Media Advisory

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VA to Hold Public Information Briefing on New Columbaria at St. Albans Community Living Center

What: Public Information Briefing outlining plans for construction of a new columbaria on the grounds of the St. Albans Community Living Center.

Who: Glenn Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs, National Cemetery Administration.

When: March 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Where: St. Albans Community Living Center – Dining Hall
179-00 Linden Blvd. & 179 Street
Jamaica, NY 11425

Contact: Kristen Parker, National Cemetery Administration, Office of Public Affairs; 202-632-8035 / 202-631-2218.

Interviews: Deputy Under Secretary Powers is available for media interviews after the public information briefing. To schedule an interview contact Kristen Parker at 202-631-2218 or kristen.parker@va.gov.

Background: VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is building a new columbaria-only cemetery on the campus of the VA St. Albans Community Living Center in St. Albans, New York (Queens). Although New York City is within the service area of Calverton and Long Island National Cemeteries on Long Island, the establishment of a columbaria-only facility in the borough of Queens in the city will provide a closer burial option for Veterans and families who choose cremation and currently face long travel times to access Calverton and Long Island National Cemeteries.

The project is part of NCA's Urban Initiative to improve memorial service in densely-populated areas where an open national cemetery is distant from the urban core

and in which respondents to NCA's annual Survey of Satisfaction with National Cemeteries indicate that travel time to the cemetery is a barrier for utilization and visitation. The New York City metropolitan area is one of five areas identified where NCA seeks to build an "Urban Initiative" columbaria-only cemetery to better serve Veterans by delivering a burial option closer to the city core.

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